

Dr. Daniel Houtz Office
Main Street
Alexandria
Huntingdon County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5402

HABS
PA,
31-ALEX,
17-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DR. DANIEL HOUTZ OFFICE

HABS No. PA-5402

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17-

Location: The office is located three lots west of Hartslog Street, on the south side of Main Street, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: William Swigart.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: This one-and-a-half story building is significant for its ownership by two important figures in Alexandria's history: state Senator Harry McAteer, a lawyer who introduced the first telephone line to Alexandria, and Dr. Daniel Houtz, a physician and community leader who accumulated his wealth from timber harvesting in Centre County. The modest and utilitarian building is closely associated with the nearby residence, the Daniel Houtz House.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1845.
2. Original and subsequent owners: The lot fronts 100' on the south side of Main Street and extends back 200' to an alley, being the northern half of the original lot No. 165, the entire lot No. 166, and the southern 10' of lot No. 167.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1835 Dr. James Trimble owned the property with no buildings.

1840 Dr. Daniel Houtz owned the property, according to Jean Harshbarger.

1872 Deed July 8, 1872, recorded in Will Book 7, Page 329.
Daniel Houtz
TO
Clara Houtz McAteer.

1951 Deed February 28, 1951, recorded in Volume O8, Pages 158-59.
Grange Trust Co. (trustee) for Clara McAteer
TO
William Swigart.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The building, constructed as an office, was probably one large room

with some division between the examining room and the waiting area, or two separate rooms, one in the front section, and one in the back.

4. Alterations and additions: There have been no major alterations or additions. Of interest, however, is the fact that the facade/roof design resembles that of the Presbyterian Church after its 1906 renovation.

B. Historical Context: See DR. DANIEL HOUTZ HOUSE.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a rectangular, utilitarian building with no outstanding architectural character other than the parapet of the primary facade, which approximates a mission-style roof line.
2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 15' x 20'.
2. Foundation: Cut stone.
3. Wall construction: Brick laid in Flemish bond.
4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.
5. Porches: The front porch is composed of a modern metal shed roof supported by two metal poles. Three concrete steps lead up to the front door. The porch on the west facade has four concrete steps, a metal shed roof, and no railing.
6. Chimneys: There is one undecorated chimney on the roof ridge near the south gable end.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are two doors; both are glazed, wood doors with two lower panels. The front door is located on the west side of the two-bay facade. The side door is located on the southwest corner of the west wall.
 - b. Windows: A transom tops the front window, a double-hung one-over-one-light wood sash. The upper half of the facade features three-over-

- three-light window.
8. Roof:
- a. Shape, covering: The structure has a front-gabled roof with mission-style parapet on the main facade; it is covered with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice: The corbeled cornice incorporates three brick courses.
- D. Site: The Dr. Daniel Houtz Office is located near the center of Main Street, surrounded by residences on the north, east, and west sides, and by fields on the south. Three lots to the east is the bank building. The residences in this area are slightly grander than those elsewhere on Main Street.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Old views (in Hartslog Heritage, 73).

B. Primary and unpublished sources:

Porter Township tax records, 1819 to 1859, Huntingdon County Historical Society.

Alexandria Borough tax records, 1859 to 1873, Huntingdon County Historical Society and Huntingdon County Courthouse.

Huntingdon County Deed Books and Probate Records, Huntingdon County Courthouse, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

Huntingdon County Tax Map -- Alexandria, 01-01-44.

Huntingdon County Historical Society survey sheets.

Interview with William Swigart, owner of the property.

C. Secondary and published sources:

Harshbarger, Jean P., Nancy R. Taylor, Sara H. Zabriskie, and F.R. Zabriskie. Hartslog Heritage. State College, Pennsylvania: K-B Offset Printing, Inc., 1975.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record in cooperation with the America's Industrial Heritage Project under the directorship of Randy Cooley; AIHP is an undertaking of the National Park Service, based in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. Recorded under the direction of Robert J. Kapsch, chief of HABS/HAER, the project was completed during summer 1988 at the HABS field office in

HABS/HAER, the project was completed during summer 1988 at the HABS field office in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Project leader was Alison K. Hoagland, senior HABS historian; field supervisor was Dorothy Burlingame, University of Vermont; project historian, Karen Genskow, Sangamon State University. Large-format photography is by David Ames. Editing of the final report was done by Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.

This report was completed as part of a larger project documenting two canal towns--Saltsburg, on the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal, and Alexandria, on the Juniata Division--flanking the Allegheny Divide. Twenty-one reports on other buildings in Alexandria, an overview history of Alexandria (HABS No. PA-5407), and of canal town development in Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5666) are part of the HABS/HAER collection. Twenty-two reports on buildings in Saltsburg (Indiana County) and an overview history of Saltsburg (HABS No. PA-5438) are also available. Results of the project were published as Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns: Alexandria and Saltsburg, Sara Amy Leach, editor (Washington, DC: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, March 1989).